CUP21.g.43/54

To the worthy Free Burgeſſes of the Borough of Colcheſter.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Time now approaches in which you are to exerciſe the moſt invaluable of your Privileges.—In a Moment, and, on a ſubject ſo intereſting, May I preſume to call your attention from the buſy Clamour of deſigning *Seducers*, and intreat you to conſider the Importance of your preſent ſituation, and the reſpective Merits of thoſe who apply for our Suffrages.

Commodore AFFLECK has lived amongſt us many Years; and, we can all bear Teſtimony to the Benevolence of his Manners—I appeal to all who know him—His Family has frequently been called to Parliament in the moſt flattering manner, and have conducted themſelves on the moſt *conſtitutional* Principles. Believe me, the brave Commodore who now fights the Battles of his Country, is not degenerate. His Profeſſion [which prevents his perſonal Attendance] at this Criſis, intitles him to additional Marks of our Favor. How will his Heart glow with Joy and Gratitude on his Return, If he meet the Approbation of your unbiaſſed Suffrages? How will he then feel the beſt Reward of private Virtues and publick Services? Let not ſo glorious an Opportunity be loſt. Be generous, noble and ſpirited, for of ſuch alone can Commodore AFFLECK be the true Repreſentative.

As Mr. POTTER is unknown to me [and I believe to almoſt every other Free-Burgeſs of Colcheſter,] it would not become me to retail the many Anecdotes I have heard to his Prejudice. It is enough for me, that *I know him not—that he is a* STRANGER *amongſt us, is neither bound to us by Friendſhip or Neighbourhood*, and that he is a CONTRACTOR; a Character unavoidably *dependent*, and ever held forth by the moſt upright and patriotic in this country, as the worſt Enemy to our Conſtitution.

Between *ſuch* Candidates can you heſitate an Inſtant? *Great Promiſes*, and a *boiſterous Affectation* of Honour and Independence, may dazzle for a little while, but when your natural ſenſe and ſentiment return, you will feel the ſuperior Claim of Commodore AFFLECK—and freely and boldly unite *your* honeſt Endeavours to ſupport him, with thoſe of

An OLD BURGESS.

Colcheſter, October 15, 1781.